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*50c 4.01.1 Covert
Action Information
Bulletin*

CIA Under Fire

A publication called the Covert Action Information Bulletin apparently is out to destroy the Central Intelligence Agency. It is going its destructive way by periodically publishing the names of persons it claims to be CIA representatives operating under diplomatic cover in foreign countries.

It's latest "hit list" — that could be an apt description since in some instances the publication is jeopardizing the very lives of some of the people it identifies as U.S. spies — has 20 persons, including three women, named as alleged CIA operators.

The publication adds these names to scores of others it has identified throughout the world as CIA or National Security agents. It is also promoting a book by renegade CIA official Philip Agee which names hundreds of alleged agents.

This is, of course, a carryover from the Watergate days in Washington when most extensions of the executive branch of government were being looked at with a jaundiced eye.

Congress delved deeply into the abuses being worked on foreigners and Americans by the intelligence communities and took some drastic

steps — too drastic many contend — to see that the questionable practices were halted.

Even the Congress, which tends to get carried away in the heat of passion and public opinion, did not contemplate doing away with the CIA.

We cannot function in today's world without our leaders being privy to information on movements and actions in foreign lands which threaten to have a profound impact on our lives.

What has been described as our shocking lack of information about the true situation in Iran and the consequences the Muslim takeover there held for us is often cited as one of the factors involved in our current gasoline crisis.

Of course, if we wish to present ourselves to the world as a civilized nation, there must be limits beyond which our intelligence forces cannot go, but the Congress has, and is, monitoring this closely.

What we don't need is a group of citizens who have taken it upon themselves to be the conscience of this nation by trying to eliminate our intelligence gathering forces and in doing so, jeopardizing the future of every American.